



**Town of Arlington, Massachusetts**  
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## **Minutes 10/17/2007**

### **MEETING MINUTES OCTOBER 17, 2007**

Members Present: Lin Baker, Susan James, Barbara Jones, Kevin O'Brien,  
Maureen St. Hilaire

Members Absent: Barbara Cutler, Kerrie Fallon

Others Present: Jack Jones, ADA Coordinator  
Paolo Marinelli, Pedestrian Advocate

#### **Meeting Minutes of September 19, 2007:**

Barbara Jones moved approval of the September 19, 2007 Meeting Minutes.  
SO VOTED

#### **Application for A.A.B. variance OB/GYN Office 5-11 Water Street:**

Bill Rowe, owner of 5-11 Water St. said that he is trying to remove an accessible toilet room in a tenant's OB/GYN space that is equipped with four toilet rooms, two of which are accessible. Bill Rowe said that the reason he is making this request is that his tenant has expressed a need for additional space in the tenant's reception area to provide privacy to patients in accordance with HIPPA Regulations. In order to accomplish the removal of the accessible toilet room he will need a variance approved by the Architectural Access Board. CMR 521 Section 3.3.4 states that no alteration shall be undertaken which decreases or has the effect of decreasing accessibility or usability of a building or facility below the requirements for new construction. Bill Rowe said that AAB regulations state that if you have an accessible toilet room it cannot be separated from other toilet rooms without having been granted a variance. In other words he could have two toilet rooms but would not be allowed to have three toilet rooms if a toilet room was accessible and not adjoining the other two. Barbara Jones made a motion seconded by Kevin O'Brien to support the variance request. SO VOTED

#### **Vial of Life Program:**

Christine Connolly said that the Board of Health, Council On Aging, and the Fire Department were beginning a program where residents that participated would be requested to include their medical history and family contacts on a prepared sheet that would be placed in a vial and stored on their refrigerator door. This would enable emergency personnel to have available information if the person were found unconscious or unable to provide information in a medical emergency. Christine Connolly said that the Town would begin aggressively promoting this program on October 18, 2007 at the Flu Clinic.

#### **Accessible Pedestrian Signals:**

Barbara Jones said that the audible signal at Summer Street and Brattle Street had been turned off. Barbara Jones said that a blind resident that uses this signal to cross Summer Street has had to call the Police Department to assist her while crossing the street since the audible signal was turned off. Barbara Jones said that she talked to Police Chief Fred Ryan regarding this issue and that Fred Ryan said that he would contact the Town Manager about requesting the Town Manager's consideration to turn the audible signal back on. Kevin O'Brien said that until the audible signals are working properly he feels that the locator signal should be turned off, but does realize the importance of leaving the audible signal on. Barbara Jones agreed with Kevin that for only a brief period until the sound issue with the locator signal is corrected the locator signal could be turned off. Barbara Jones said that a letter from the Commission should be sent to

the Town Manager regarding the correct location of the audible pedestrian signals with information pertaining to the required direction of the arrows located on the APS poles. Barbara J. also said that the meeting minutes should mention the danger of not having an audible message. Barbara J. provided a regulation from the U.S. Access Board stating that no alterations can be made to alter accessibility. Kevin said that he would be speaking to the Town Manager the following morning and would show him the regulation. Paolo Marinelli expressed concern that issues that have occurred on Summer Street not be repeated in other Town projects. Kevin O'Brien said that he would present plans to the Commission regarding the Mass. Ave. corridor project when the plans are 25% completed.

**Commission Membership:**

Was tabled until the November Meeting.

**Old Business:**

Barbara Jones said that letters thanking John Bean, Annie LaCourt for attending the June Commission Meeting should be sent out by the Commission.

Kevin O'Brien said that a contract has been issued for the Commission's Curb Cut Ramp Project on Broadway and Warren Street. Kevin said that John Bean would use Public Works funds appropriated for sidewalk repairs for funding a survey to determine the extent of Curb Cut Ramps that need to be installed within the Town. Barbara Jones requested that the meeting minutes show that the Commission has done all that was requested by Annie LaCourt regarding preparation for a Capital Budget Submission. However the Planning Dept. and Public Works Dept. were unable to complete the curb cut ramp survey requested by Selectmen Annie LaCourt as part of the requested Capital Budget submission.

Barbara Jones said that the Disability Commission Transition Plan should be updated. Jack Jones said that he would discuss updating the Transition Plan at a future Commission Meeting.

Paolo inquired as to why the Town decided to plow the Thorndike Field Parking Lot and has not yet decided to clear the Donald R. Marquis Minuteman Trail of snow and ice. Paolo also inquired as to how the amount of money discussed at the Selectmen's Hearing to Clear the Trail was arrived at.

Barbara Jones said that Police Chief Fred Ryan was invited and planned to attend the next Commission Meeting.

The Commission decided to reschedule the November Meeting from November 21<sup>st</sup> to November 28<sup>th</sup> because of Thanksgiving.

**Adjournment:**

The meeting adjourned at 5:50 P.M.